

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn) An anti-microbial fabric, comprising:
 - a multi-layer filter article comprising a plurality of layers, wherein at least one layer is made at least in part of a multi-component fiber of thermoplastic polymers, said fiber including:
 - a core of thermoplastic polymer being at least 20% and less than 70% of the fiber by weight, and
 - a sheath being more than 30% of the fiber by weight and including (i) a thermoplastic polymer and (ii) an anti-microbial/anti-fungal inorganic additive being from 0.1% to 20% of the fiber by weight , wherein the thickness of the sheath in microns is approximately twice the nominal particle size in microns of the additive.
2. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, forming at least a part of an air filter.
3. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, forming at least a part of a water filter.
4. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said fiber further comprises an anti-odor agent.
5. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, wherein said at least one layer including the fiber is on a side of the fabric that is adapted to be upstream relative to any fluid flow traversing or otherwise contacting the fabric.
6. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, forming at least part of a car wash material.

7. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, forming at least part of a filter or a batt in a car wash water recycle storage tank.
8. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, forming at least in part a mop head fabric.
9. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, forming at least in part a dust mask.
10. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, forming at least in part a humidifier evaporation surface media and/or a circulation/ aeration system pad.
11. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 1, forming at least in part a boat bilge anti-microbial pad.
12. (withdrawn) An anti-microbial fabric, comprising:
 - a multi-layer filter article comprising a plurality of layers, wherein at least one layer is made of a bi-component fiber, said fiber including:
 - a core of a high tenacity polymer being at least 20% and less than 70% of the fiber by weight, and
 - a sheath of a hydrolysis resistant polymer being at least 30% of the fiber by weight, and including an additive ranging from 0. 1 % to 20 % of the fiber by weight, said additive being selected from the group consisting of pigments, compounds creating a hydrophilic surface, and anti-microbial, anti-fungal and anti-odor materials.
13. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, forming at least a part of an air filter.
14. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, forming at least a part of a water filter.
15. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, wherein said fiber further comprises an anti-odor agent.

16. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, wherein said at least one layer including the fiber is on a side of the fabric that is adapted to be upstream relative to any fluid flow traversing or otherwise contacting the fabric.
17. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, forming at least part of a car wash material.
18. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, forming at least part of a filter or a batt in a car wash water recycle storage tank.
19. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, forming at least in part a mop head fabric.
20. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, forming at least in part a dust mask.
21. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, forming at least in part a humidifier evaporation surface media and/or a circulation/ aeration system pad.
22. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 12, forming at least in part a boat bilge anti-microbial pad.
23. (withdrawn) An anti-microbial fabric, comprising:
 - a multi-layer filter article comprising a plurality of layers, wherein at least one layer is made at least in part of:
 - one or more units of a binder fiber made from low temperature polymer with a melting or softening temperature below 200 degrees C, an anti-microbial additive of an inorganic compound made from a metal chosen from the group consisting of copper, zinc, tin and silver added to the binder fiber, the additive ranging from 0.1% to 20% of the fiber by weight, and
 - other fibers that are free of said anti-microbial additive that are blended

with said binder fiber the fabric having a form as made by heating to said melting temperature of the binder fiber and enabling melt and flow of the binder fiber with formation of nodes attaching some of the other fibers to each other, thereby providing a fiber blend that can be used to produce an anti-microbial finished fabric able to withstand significant wear and washings and maintain effectiveness of said anti-microbial additives.

24. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, forming at least a part of an air filter.
25. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, forming at least a part of a water filter.
26. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, wherein said article further comprises an anti-odor agent.
27. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, wherein said at least one layer including the binder fiber is on a side of the fabric that is adapted to be upstream relative to any fluid flow traversing or otherwise contacting the fabric.
28. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, forming at least part of a car wash material.
29. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, forming at least part of a filter or a batt in a car wash water recycle storage tank.
30. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, forming at least in part a mop head fabric.
31. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, forming at least in part a dust mask.
32. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, forming at least in part a humidifier evaporation surface media and/or a circulation/ aeration system pad.

33. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, forming at least in part a boat bilge anti-microbial pad.
34. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, wherein the fibers that are free of said anti-microbial additive are cotton.
35. (withdrawn) The fabric of claim 23, wherein the binder fiber is made of PETG.
36. (withdrawn) An anti-microbial medical fabric, comprising:
 - a multi-layer fabric comprising a plurality of layers, wherein at least one layer is made at least in part of multi-component fibers of thermoplastic polymers, each fiber comprising:
 - a core of thermoplastic polymer being at least 20% and less than 70% of the fiber by weight, and
 - a sheath being more than 30% of the fiber by weight and including: (i) a thermoplastic polymer and (ii) an anti-microbial/anti-fungal inorganic additive being from 0.1% to 20% of the fiber by weight, wherein the thickness of the sheath in microns is approximately twice the nominal particle size in microns of the additive.
37. (withdrawn) The medical fabric of claim 36, forming at least part of a wound care dressing or a burn dressing.
38. (withdrawn) The medical fabric of claim 37, wherein said at least one layer including the fiber is on a side of the fabric that is adapted to be placed on the skin of a patient.
39. (withdrawn) The medical fabric of claim 38, wherein said at least one layer is comprised of an absorbent material.

40. (withdrawn) The medical fabric of claim 36, forming at least part of a medical wipe.
41. (withdrawn) An anti-microbial medical fabric, comprising:
 - a multi-layer fabric comprising a plurality of layers, wherein at least one layer is made at least in part of bi-component fibers, each fiber including:
 - a core of a high tenacity polymer being at least 20% and less than 70% of the fiber by weight, and
 - a sheath of a hydrolysis resistant polymer being at least 30% of the fiber by weight, said sheath including an additive ranging from 0.1% to 20% of the fiber by weight said additive being selected from the group consisting of pigments, compounds creating a hydrophilic surface, and anti-microbial, anti-fungal and anti-odor materials.
42. (withdrawn) The medical fabric of claim 41, forming at least part of a wound care dressing or a burn dressing.
43. (withdrawn) The medical fabric of claim 42, wherein said at least one layer including the fiber is on a side of the fabric that is adapted to be placed on the skin of a patient.
44. (withdrawn) The medical fabric of claim 43, wherein said at least one layer is comprised of an absorbent material.
45. (withdrawn) The medical fabric of claim 41, forming at least part of a medical wipe.
46. (currently amended) An anti-microbial medical fabric, comprising:
 - a multi-layer fabric comprising a plurality of layers, wherein at least one layer is made at least in part of:
 - a binder fiber made from low temperature polymer with a melting or softening temperature below 200°C,
 - an anti-microbial additive of an inorganic compound made from a metal

chosen from the group consisting of copper, zinc, tin and silver that is added to the binder fiber, the additive ranging from 0.1% to 20% of the fiber by weight, and fibers that are free of said anti-microbial additive,
the anti-microbial additive free fibers and the binder fibers having been that are blended with said binder fiber and heated to said melting temperature so as to adhere the anti-microbial additive free fibers and the binder fibers at their crossing points and to adhere anti-microbial additives encapsulated in the low temperature polymer to the anti-microbial additive free fibers, thereby providing a fiber blend that can be used to produce an anti-microbial finished fabric able to withstand significant wear and washings and maintain its effectiveness.

47. (previously presented) The medical fabric of claim 46, forming at least part of a wound care dressing or a burn dressing.
48. (previously presented) The medical fabric of claim 47, wherein said at least one layer including the fiber is on a side of the fabric that is adapted to be placed on the skin of a patient.
49. (previously presented) The medical fabric of claim 48, wherein said at least one layer is comprised of an absorbent material.
50. (previously presented) The medical fabric of claim 46, forming at least part of a medical wipe.
51. (previously presented) The medical fabric of claim 46, further comprising PETG as a carrier for a plurality of color pigments for said fabric.

52. (previously presented) The medical fabric of claim 51, wherein the PETG had an anti-microbial and/or a colorant added thereto prior to melting at a low temperature.